The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Friday, the 16th day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Communal representation in the Registration department.

891 *Q.*—Mr. A. M. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state the number of Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Muhammadans and Christians appointed as sub-registrars and probationary sub-registrars by the present Inspector-General after he assumed charge of the office ?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to paragraph 6 of G.O. No. 658, Public, dated the 15th August 1922, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Amendment of the Estates Land Act of 1908.

892 *Q.*—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the action taken by Government regarding the amendment of the Estates Land Act of 1908 ; and

(*b*) when they hope to publish the amending Bill ?

A.—(*a*) A Bill has been prepared and is under the consideration of Government.

(*b*) The Government are unable to say at present.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I know if the Bill was prepared before the resolution of this Council ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am afraid not."

Reduction of the constabulary in Madras and the mufassal.

893 *Q.*—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) the number of Police constables reduced in 1922–23—

(*a*) in the city of Madras ;

(*b*) in the mufassal offices in the Presidency arranged according to caste ; and

(2) the means adopted by Government for providing these constables with livelihood ?

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A.—The reduction was made, not by dismissing members of the force but by leaving unfilled vacancies as they occurred and so far as is known no constables were deprived of their livelihood in consequence.

There was no reduction in Madras city. That in the mufassal amounted to 2,287 men in 1922. Figures for 1923 are not available.

Candidates for secondary grade training.

894 *Q.*—Mr. A. T. PALMER : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the candidates selected for secondary grade training are of low standard ; and

(*b*) whether it will not be possible in the interests of education to raise their standard ?

A.—No. Ordinarily principals and inspecting officers select such candidates as possess secondary school-leaving certificates showing a satisfactory school record and marks at the public examination or the public examination after moderation not below the Presidency average.

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" May I know if the answer given is with reference to (*a*) or (*b*) or both, Sir ? "

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" It seems to me an answer to the whole question, Sir."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" I take it that it is an answer to (*b*) also. Am I also to understand, Sir, that the names of these candidates need not appear on the eligibility list ? "

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I must have notice of that question, Sir."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" I say this because the alteration is not effected for boys whose names do not appear."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" It will be kept in view, Sir, and answered in the next question that my friend may give notice of."

Indian Christian voters' list.

895 *Q.*—Mr. A. T. PALMER : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the last elections many Indian Christians were included in the non-Christian voters' lists, sometimes against their protests ?

A.—The Government have no information. They are further not aware of any protests having been made.

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" I request Government to get information, because I know there are many cases where the Christians requested the people who were responsible for making this list to enter their names there. They were refused."